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Williams M Lee Jr.
2351 Boulevard Alfred-Nobel
St Laurent, QC H4S 2A9
CANADA

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| EXAMINER |
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CHU, WUTCHUNG

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2619

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06/13/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/675,162 | Applicant(s) MITCHELL ET AL. | |
| | Examiner WUTCHUNG CHU | Art Unit 2619 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 May 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 30,32-34,36,47,49-51,53-64 and 66-74 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 30,32-34,36,47,49-51,53-64 and 66-74 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 5/13/2008 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

2. This communication is in response to application's amendment filed on 5/13/2007. Claims 30, 32-34, 36, 47, 49-51, 53-64, and 66-74 are pending, and claims 1-29, 31, 35, 48, 52, and 65 are canceled.

Claim Objections

3. Claims 43 and 60 are objected to because of the following informalities: because these claims depend on cancelled claims. Appropriate correction is required.

4. Claims 74 is objected to because of the following informalities: because claim 74 on page 7 is blurred. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.

3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
 4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.
6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 30, 32, 38-41, 43-44, 47, 49, 52, 55-58, 60-61, 64, and 69-74 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art in view of Donovan et al., hereinafter Donovan, (US2002/0057786).

Regarding claim 30, the admitted prior art discloses establishing connection between PSTN terminal and VPN (**see figures 1 and 2 and admitted prior art background page 2 line 30 to page 3 line 9**) comprising:

- A plurality of virtual private networks 'VPNs' (**see admitted prior art figure 2 ref 40 Blue VPN site, ref 50 Green VPN site**) interconnected by a first data network (**see admitted prior art figure 2 ref 30 VPN data network**);
- A second data network (**see admitted prior art figure 2 ref 20 PSTN**) connected to the plurality of VPNs (**see admitted prior art figure 2 ref 40 Blue VPN site, ref 50 Green VPN site**) via the first data network (**see admitted prior art figure 2 ref 30 VPN data network**), the second data network using a network addressing scheme that is different to a network addressing scheme used by at least one of the plurality of VPNs (**see**

figure 2 ref20 PSTN and ref30 VPN data network and in the admitted prior art page 2 lines 4-10 includes Network address translators (NAT) therefore it is inherent that the first network addressing scheme and second network addressing scheme are different);

- **A VPN gateway interfacing the first data network (see admitted prior art figure 2 ref 30 VPN data network) and a call server (see admitted prior art figure 2 ref 44 call server) in the second data network (see admitted prior art figure 2 ref 20 PSTN), the VPN gateway (see admitted prior art background page 1 lines 37-38) being configured to pass communication session signaling traffic between an entity in one of the plurality of VPNs and the call server for establishing a communication session between the entity in one of the plurality of VPNs and an entity in an external Time Division Multiplexe 'TDM' network (see admitted prior art background page 2 lines 1-2 and figure 2 PSTN), the external TDM network (see admitted prior art figure 2 PSTN) network handling communication session bearer traffic in a TDM (see admitted prior art figure 2 PSTN) format different to a packet of the first data network (see admitted prior art background page 2 lines 5-8 and figure 2 VPN data networking); and**

The admitted prior art discloses all the subject matter of the claimed invention with the exception of:

- A VPN converter interfacing the first and second data networks and directly interfacing the first data network to the external TDM network, the VPN converter being configured to receive bearer traffic relating to the communication session established between the entity in one of the plurality of VPNs and the entity in the external TDM network and to convert the bearer traffic between a the packet data format of the first data network and the TDM format used in the external TDM network.

Donovan discloses a data network using as a networking address scheme that is different to a network addressing scheme used by a VPN (**see Donovan figure 2 and paragraph 10 the IP network uses the IP address scheme that is different to the PSTN network addressing scheme used by VPN**); multiple devices perform protocol translation to provide addressing between the IP and PSTN networks (**see Donovan paragraph 23**), and communications may be passed from telephone from behind PSTN to IP Phone in IP network. Therefore, the information is passed from source address in the VPN to a destination address in the data network. The VPN media proxy having an address translator arranged to translate the destination address of the information in accordance with the network, addressing scheme of the data network (**see Donovan paragraphs 17 and 30 and figure 17**), and data communication may be sent between the IP network and PSTN.

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the addressing scheme in a data network that differs from a VPN and enabling communications via address translation between the data network and the

VPN as taught by Donovan in the APA in order to expand communications between networks using disparate addressing schemes for purposes such as expanding telephone communications to regions that use high speed data networks such as intranets and the internet as opposed to traditional VPN service across public switched telephone network **(see Donovan paragraphs 3, 7-9).**

Regarding claims 32 and 49, the admitted prior art and Donovan teach the plurality of VPNs is arranged to share the VPN converter as a common resource **(see Donovan paragraph 23 figure 2 ref 61).**

Regarding claims 38, 55, 69, the admitted prior art and Donovan teach the VPN converter is arranged to determine which of the plurality of the VPNs the communication session signaling information relates to , and to associate VPN converter resources to a communication session associated with the identified VPN **(see paragraphs 33 and 34 and figure 3 box 302 IP header, 310 MPLS tag).**

Regarding claims 39, 56, and 70, the admitted prior art and Donovan teach the VPN converter is arranged to determine the VPN identity based on an external network address associated with the VPN entity **(see paragraph 35 and figure 4 box 412 “outside” public address).**

Regarding claims 40, 57, and 71, the admitted prior art and Donovan teach the VPN converter is arranged to determine the VPN identity based on a VPN identifier parameter provided by an entity of the VPN **(see paragraph 35 and figure 4 box 406 “inside” local address).**

Regarding claims 41, 58 and 72, the admitted prior art and Donovan teach the VPN converter is arranged to determine the VPN identity based on parameters associated with establishment of the communication session **(see paragraph 34 line 1-6 and figure 3 box 312 provider edge device identifier)**.

Regarding claims 43, 60, the admitted prior art and Donovan teach the external network comprises a public switched telephone network 'PSTN' **(see admitted prior art figure 2 ref20 PSTN and background page 2 line 37)**.

Regarding claims 44, 61, the admitted prior art and Donovan teach where more than one of the VPNs use private IP network addressing schemes, some of the private IP network addressing schemes have overlapping address ranges **(see admitted prior art background page 3 lines 4-6)**.

Regarding claim 47, the admitted prior art and Donovan teach a method of converting bearer traffic format in a communication system comprising:

- A plurality of virtual private networks 'VPNs' **(see admitted prior art figure 2 ref 40 Blue VPN site, ref 50 Green VPN site)** interconnected by a first data network **(see admitted prior art figure 2 ref 30 VPN data network)**; a second data network **(see admitted prior art figure 2 ref 20 PSTN)** connected to the plurality of VPNs **(see admitted prior art figure 2 ref 40 Blue VPN site, ref 50 Green VPN site)** via the first data network **(see admitted prior art figure 2 ref 30 VPN data network)**, the second data network using a network addressing scheme that is different to a network addressing scheme use by at least one of the plurality of VPNs

(see figure 2 ref20 PSTN and ref30 VPN data network and in the admitted prior art page 2 lines 4-10 includes Network address translators (NAT) therefore it is inherent that the first network addressing scheme and second network addressing scheme are different); a VPN gateway interfacing the first data network (see admitted prior art figure 2 ref 30 VPN data network) and a call server (see admitted prior art figure 2 ref 44 call server) in the second data network (see admitted prior art figure 2 ref 20 PSTN); and

The admitted prior art discloses all the subject matter of the claimed invention with the exception of:

- a VPN converter interfacing the first and second data networks; the method comprising the steps of:
- Directly interfacing the first data network to an external Time Division Multiplex 'TDM' network;
- Configuring the VPN gateway to pass communication session signaling traffic between an entity in one of the plurality of VPNs and the call server for establishing a communication session between the entity in one of the plurality of VPNs and an entity in the external TDM network, the external TDM network handling communication session bearer traffic in a TDM format different to of a packet first data network; and
- Configuring the VPN converter to receive bearer traffic relating to the communication session established between the entity in one of the

plurality of VPNs and the entity in the external TDM network and to convert the bearer traffic between the packet data format of the first data network and the TDM format used in the external TDM network.

Donovan discloses a data network using as a networking address scheme that is different to a network addressing scheme used by a VPN (**see Donovan figure 2 and paragraph 10 the IP network uses the IP address scheme that is different to the PSTN network addressing scheme used by VPN**); multiple devices perform protocol translation to provide addressing between the IP and PSTN networks (**see Donovan paragraph 23**), and communications may be passed from telephone from behind PSTN to IP Phone in IP network. Therefore, the information is passed from source address in the VPN to a destination address in the data network. The VPN media proxy having an address translator arranged to translate the destination address of the information in accordance with the network, addressing scheme of the data network (**see Donovan paragraphs 17 and 30 and figure 17**), and data communication may be sent between the IP network and PSTN.

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the addressing scheme in a data network that differs from a VPN and enabling communications via address translation between the data network and the VPN as taught by Donovan in the APA in order to expand communications between networks using disparate addressing schemes for purposes such as expanding telephone communications to regions that use high speed data networks such as

intranets and the internet as opposed to traditional VPN service across public switched telephone network **(see Donovan paragraphs 3, 7-9)**.

Regarding claim 64, the admitted prior art and Donovan teach a virtual private network 'VPN; converter for a communication system **(see figures 1 and 2 and admitted prior art background page 2 line 30 to page 3 line 9)** comprising;

a plurality of virtual private networks 'VPNs' **(see admitted prior art figure 2 ref 40 Blue VPN site, ref 50 Green VPN site)** interconnected by a first data network **(see admitted prior art figure 2 ref 30 VPN data network)**; a second data network **(see admitted prior art figure 2 ref 20 PSTN)** connected to the plurality of VPNs **(see admitted prior art figure 2 ref 40 Blue VPN site, ref 50 Green VPN site)** via the first data network **(see admitted prior art figure 2 ref 30 VPN data network)**, the second data network using a network addressing scheme that is different to a network addressing scheme used by at least one of the plurality of VPNs **(see figure 2 ref20 PSTN and ref30 VPN data network and in the admitted prior art page 2 lines 4-10 includes Network address translators (NAT) therefore it is inherent that the first network addressing scheme and second network addressing scheme are different)**; and a VPN gateway interfacing the first data network **(see admitted prior art figure 2 ref 30 VPN data network)** and a call server **(see admitted prior art figure 2 ref 44 call server)** in the second data network **(see admitted prior art figure 2 ref 20 PSTN)**, the VPN gateway **(see admitted prior art background page 1 lines 37-38)** being configured to pass communication session signaling traffic between an entity in one of the plurality of VPNs and the call server for establishing a

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communication session between the entity in one of the plurality of VPNs and an entity in an external Time Division Multiplex 'TDM' network **(see admitted prior art background page 2 lines 1-2 and figure 2 PSTN)**, the external TDM network handling communication session bearer traffic in a TDM format different to that of a packet data format of first data network **(see admitted prior art background page 2 lines 5-8)**; The admitted prior art discloses all the subject matter of the claimed invention with the exception of:

- the VPN converter comprising:
- Interfaces for interfacing the first and second data networks and directly interfacing the first data network to the external TDM network,
- Means for receiving bearer traffic relating to the communication session established between the entity in one of the plurality of VPNs and the entity in the external TDM network; and
- Means for converting the bearer traffic between a the packet data format of the first data network and the TDM format used in the external TDM network.

Donovan discloses a data network using as a networking address scheme that is different to a network addressing scheme used by a VPN **(see Donovan figure 2 and paragraph 10 the IP network uses the IP address scheme that is different to the PSTN network addressing scheme used by VPN)**; multiple devices perform protocol translation to provide addressing between the IP and PSTN networks **(see Donovan paragraph 23)**, and communications may be passed from telephone from behind PSTN

to IP Phone in IP network. Therefore, the information is passed from source address in the VPN to a destination address in the data network. The VPN media proxy having an address translator arranged to translate the destination address of the information in accordance with the network, addressing scheme of the data network **(see Donovan paragraphs 17 and 30 and figure 17)**, and data communication may be sent between the IP network and PSTN.

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the addressing scheme in a data network that differs from a VPN and enabling communications via address translation between the data network and the VPN as taught by Donovan in the APA in order to expand communications between networks using disparate addressing schemes for purposes such as expanding telephone communications to regions that use high speed data networks such as intranets and the internet as opposed to traditional VPN service across public switched telephone network **(see Donovan paragraphs 3, 7-9)**.

Regarding claim 74, the admitted prior art and Donovan teach a computer readable medium storing computer readable instructions which, when executed by a processor of a computing device, cause the computing device to implement, in communication system comprising:

a plurality of virtual private networks 'VPNs' **(see admitted prior art figure 2 ref 40 Blue VPN site, ref 50 Green VPN site)** interconnected by a first data network **(see admitted prior art figure 2 ref 30 VPN data network)**; a second data network **(see admitted prior art figure 2 ref 20 PSTN)** connected to the plurality of VPNs **(see**

admitted prior art figure 2 ref 40 Blue VPN site, ref 50 Green VPN site) via the first data network **(see admitted prior art figure 2 ref 30 VPN data network)**; a second data network connected to the plurality of VPNs via the first data network, the second data network using a network addressing scheme that is different to a network addressing scheme used by at least one of the plurality of VPNs **(see figure 2 ref20 PSTN and ref30 VPN data network and in the admitted prior art page 2 lines 4-10 includes Network address translators (NAT) therefore it is inherent that the first network addressing scheme and second network addressing scheme are different)**; a VPN gateway interfacing the first data network and a call server in the second data network; and a VPN converter interfacing the first **(see admitted prior art figure 2 ref 30 VPN data network)** and second data networks **(see admitted prior art figure 2 ref 20 PSTN)** and directly interfacing the first data network to an external Time Division Multiplex 'TDM' network **(see admitted prior art background page 2 lines 1-2 and figure 2 PSTN)**; the steps of:

Causing the VPN gateway to pass communication session signaling traffic between an entity in one of the plurality of VPNs and the call server for establishing a communication session between the entity in one of the plurality of VPNs and an entity in the external TDM network **(see admitted prior art background page 2 lines 5-8 and figure 2 PSTN)**,

The admitted prior art discloses all the subject matter of the claimed invention with the exception of:

- the external TDM network handling communication session bearer traffic in a TDM format to different that of a packet data format of the first data network; and
- Causing the VPN converter to receive bearer traffic relating the communication session established between the entity in one of the plurality of VPNs and the entity in the external TDM network and to convert the bearer traffic between the packet data format of the first data network and the TDM format used in the external TDM network.

Donovan discloses a data network using as a networking address scheme that is different to a network addressing scheme used by a VPN (**see Donovan figure 2 and paragraph 10 the IP network uses the IP address scheme that is different to the PSTN network addressing scheme used by VPN**); multiple devices perform protocol translation to provide addressing between the IP and PSTN networks (**see Donovan paragraph 23**), and communications may be passed from telephone from behind PSTN to IP Phone in IP network. Therefore, the information is passed from source address in the VPN to a destination address in the data network. The VPN media proxy having an address translator arranged to translate the destination address of the information in accordance with the network, addressing scheme of the data network (**see Donovan paragraphs 17 and 30 and figure 17**), and data communication may be sent between the IP network and PSTN.

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the addressing scheme in a data network that differs from a VPN

and enabling communications via address translation between the data network and the VPN as taught by Donovan in the APA in order to expand communications between networks using disparate addressing schemes for purposes such as expanding telephone communications to regions that use high speed data networks such as intranets and the internet as opposed to traditional VPN service across public switched telephone network **(see Donovan paragraphs 3, 7-9)**.

8. Claims 33-34, 45-46, 50-51, 62-63, 66 and 73 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over APA and Donovan as applied to claims 30, 47, and 64 above, and further in view of Somasundaram (US2006/0013209).

Regarding claims 33, 50, 66, the admitted prior art discloses all the subject matter of the claimed invention with the exception of:

- the VPN converter comprises a plurality of virtual routers, the plurality of virtual routers being provided for the plurality of VPNs such that each of the plurality of virtual routers is provided with an address for an address space of its respective one of the plurality of VPNs.

Somasundaram from the same or similar fields of endeavor teaches the use of:

- A translation table maintained by a NAT device which includes a plurality of entries, where each entry includes a VPN id or VRF table identifier, an “inside” local address, and “outside” public address. **(see Somasundaram paragraph 35 line 1-14 and figure 4 box 412 “outside” public address)**

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the Service Provider Edge Box including Router/NAT Device and the

translation address scheme as taught by Somasundaram in the modified system of the admitted prior art and Donovan in order to provide network address translator (NAT) function and enabling enterprise clients to be uniquely addressable (**see Somasundaram paragraphs 7-10**).

Regarding claims 46, 63, and 73, the admitted prior art and Donovan discloses all the subject matter of the claimed invention with the exception of:

- the VPN converter comprises a network address translation 'NAT' function and the NAT function is configured to provide a network address translation function to each of the virtual routers (**see Somasundaram figure 1 box 104 Service Provider Edge Box including Router/NAT device and paragraph 10**).

Somasundaram from the same or similar fields of endeavor teaches the use of:

- Service Provider Edge Box including Router/NAT device which performs the NAT function (**see Somasundaram figure 1 box 104 Service Provider Edge Box including Router/NAT device and paragraph 10**)

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the Service Provider Edge Box including Router/NAT Device and the translation address scheme as taught by Somasundaram in the modified system of the admitted prior art and Donovan in order to provide network address translator (NAT) function and enabling enterprise clients to be uniquely addressable (**see Somasundaram paragraphs 7-10**).

Regarding claims 34, 45, 51, and 62, the admitted prior art and Somasundaram disclose all the subject matter of the claimed invention with the exception of:

- (claim 34) the communication session comprises one of a voice over internet protocol 'VoIP' call, a telephony call, a video call, and a fax communication
- (claim 45) the communication session signaling traffic comprises 'VoIP' call signaling and the call comprises a VoIP call.

The background of Somasundaram teaches the use Voice over IP (**see background of Somasundaram paragraph 7**). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the VoIP in the modified system of the admitted prior art and Somasundaram in order to offer services to multiple enterprise customers (**see background of Somasundaram paragraph 7**).

9. Claims 42 and 59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over APA and Donovan as applied to claims 30, 47, and 64 above, and further in view of Munoz et al., hereinafter Munoz, (US6741585).

Regarding claims 42, 59, the admitted prior art and Somasundaram discloses all the subject matter of the claimed invention with the exception of using the parameters comprise an E.164 address. Munoz et al. from the same or similar fields of endeavor teaches the translation from E.164 addresses to IP address of gateways (**see Munoz et al. column 6 line 11-12 and column 15 line 54-column 16 line 32**). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include translation from E.164 addresses to IP address of gateways as

taught by Munoz et al. in the system for handling shared services through virtual route forwarding (VRF) in order to provide interworking capabilities between different networks (**see Munoz et al. column 1 line 56 – column 2 line 7**).

10. Claims 36-37, 53-54, and 67-68 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art and Somasundaram as applied to claim 30 above, and further in view of Young et al., hereinafter Young, (US2003/0093563).

Regarding claims 36-37, 53-54, and 67-68, the admitted prior art and Somasundaram discloses all the subject matter of the claimed invention with the exception of using an encoding format being one of G.711, G.729, and G.726. Young from the same or similar fields of endeavor teaches the supporting CODECs include G.711 and G.729 (**see Young paragraph 91 line 6**). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include supporting CODECs include G.711 and G.729 as taught by Young et al. in the system for handling shared services through virtual route forwarding (VRF) in order to provide different encoding format of call services.

Response to Arguments

11. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 30, 32-34, 36, 47, 49-51, 53-64, and 66-74 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Bradd et al. (US2003/0118002) discloses a methods and apparatus for setting up telephony connections between two address domains having overlapping address ranges.

Ould-brahim et al. (2003/0177221) discloses a resource allocation using a n auto-discovery mechanise for provider-provisioned layer-2 and layer-3 virtual private networks.

Forslow (US7155518) discloses extranet workgroup formation across multiple mobile virtual Private networks.

Arrow et al. (US6226751) discloses method and apparatus for configuring a virtual private network.

Boden et al. (US7107614) discloses system and method for network address translation intergration with IP security.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to WUTCHUNG CHU whose telephone number is (571)270-1411. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 1000 - 1500EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edan Orgad can be reached on 571 272 7884. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/WC/
Wutchung Chu

/Edan Orgad/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2619